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October 8, 2004

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Cambridge Electric Light Company/Commonwealth Electric Company,
D.T.E. 03-118

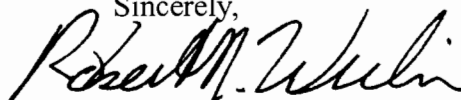
Dear Secretary Cottrell:

The Attorney General and Cambridge Electric Light Company/Commonwealth Electric Company d/b/a NSTAR Electric (the "Parties") are engaged in settlement negotiations in the above-referenced, pending reconciliation case. Under the procedural schedule established by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (the "Department"), evidentiary hearings are to begin on October 13, 2004, unless a settlement agreement is filed by today. In order to permit sufficient time for the Parties to complete their settlement negotiations, they jointly request that the hearing dates be deferred.

The Parties have engaged in settlement negotiations and NSTAR Electric is in the process of providing voluminous documentation to the Attorney General. In addition, the Parties (including the same staff and some attorneys) are engaged in an extremely time-sensitive series of cases relating to the divestiture of NSTAR Electric's purchase power agreements. These pending cases (D.T.E. 04-61, D.T.E. 04-68, D.T.E. 04-70, D.T.E. 04-78 and D.T.E. 04-85) represent over \$300 million in potential customer savings. Accordingly, to provide sufficient time to complete discovery and settlement negotiations, the Parties request that the Department defer the commencement of hearings until November 16, 2004. If the Parties have not filed a settlement agreement by November 12, 2004, they will provide a status report on that date.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert N. Werlin

cc: Caroline Bulger, Hearing Officer
Service List